

20 folios 7/93

R E A S O N S

Humbly Offered

For Passing the Bill, prohibiting the Exportation of Woollen Manufactures from Ireland to Forreign Parts, other than England.

- I. **T**HE Wool and Woollen Manufacture of *England* having been the Rise and Spring of the Wealth and Strength of this Kingdom, it has always been the Care of the Parliament to Encourage and Promote it, and with great Reason.
1. Because it employs vast Numbers of People, who are fed and cloathed with the Product of this Nation, whereby the Value of Lands, and all things arising from thence is upheld.
 2. Hereby our Shipping and Navigation is encreased, by the Failure whereof we should soon become a Prey to Forreign Enemies.
 3. This augments the Revenue, and the People are the better enabled to pay their Taxes.
- And if this great Branch of the Fundamental Trade of *England* be lost, there would be no visible means left of keeping the Nation from sinking.
- II. But the infinite Advantages which *England* has reaped by its Woollen Manufactures is allowed by all, nor can it be denied, (or if it is, it can be proved) That *Ireland* has encreased greatly in the Woollen Manufacture in imitation of the *English*, and has sent vast Quantities abroad to Forreign Parts. And those who are against this Bill, seem to think that the People of *Ireland* should not be debarr'd from Improving and Enriching that Country by the same means, and that it is hard to deny *Ireland* to make the best of their Land, Labour and Industry; in answer whereunto it is to be considered,
- III. *England* has been always very kind to *Ireland*, since they have been so nearly related, and has studied and promoted their Interest in every thing, except what has tended to the immediate Detriment of the Lands and Trade of *England*, and therein *England* must be excused, if it looks first to its own Preservation.
- By the Act of Navigation, 12 Car. 2. Cap. 18. Sect. 1, 14, & 18. the same Priviledge is given to the People of *Ireland*, as to those of *England*; and by the Act for Encouragement of Trade, 15 Car. 2. Cap. 7 all sorts of Victuals, Servants, and Horses are allowed to be carried from *Ireland* to the Plantations; and *England* has always with the Expence of its Blood and Treasure, rescued and protected *Ireland*, and might justly in Gratitude expect that *Ireland* would do nothing to its Prejudice, at least not to tear out the very Bowels, and suck out the Hearts blood of its Deliverer and Defender.
- IV. That the permitting the continuance of exporting Woollen Manufactures from *Ireland* to Forreign Parts, must of Necessity have such an Effect, is evident: For,
1. Wool is 50 per Cent. cheaper in *Ireland* than in *England*.
 2. Labour is as much cheaper there, by reason of the cheapness of their Provision, &c.
 3. Tallow and Salt, which makes Soap, of which a great Quantity is used in the Woollen Goods, is one third part dearer here than there.
 4. Dying-Wares, Oyls, &c. from Forreign Parts, are cheaper there than here.
 5. The Exchange of Money between *England* and *Ireland* is ordinarily at least 10 per Cent.
- And upon the whole Account, the several Sorts of Woollen Manufactures made in *Ireland*, are made, drest, dyed, shipped and carried to Forreign Markets, at least 30 per Cent. cheaper than the Woollen Manufactures of *England*, of the same sorts and goodness. What then can be the natural, and immediate consequence of this, but that *Ireland* will by degrees carry away all the Woollen Trade from *England*, for no body trades but for profit; and if Forreigners can have what they want, 30 per Cent. or 5 per Cent. nay, but 1 per Cent. cheaper from one place than from another, they will fetch them where they can be had cheapest, and the *English* People themselves do the same; for the Merchants in *England* will not (for the sake of *England*) send Woollen Goods from *England*, when they can buy and send them so much cheaper from *Ireland* to Forreign Parts.
- V. *Ireland* thus encreasing in their Woollen Manufactures, and by their cheapness underselling *England* in Forreign Markets, must carry away the Trade from *England*, and the Encouragement hereby given to the said Manufactures in *Ireland*, will draw thither the *English* Manufacturers, and other *English* People depending upon that extensive Trade, whereof some are already gone, and many more resolve to go immediately, if this Bill does not pass, which will soon impoverish and weaken *England*.
1. By taking away great Numbers of the People, who consume the Product of the Land of *England*, and so lessen the Value of Land it self.
 2. By lowering the Price of Wool throughout the Kingdom.
 3. By bringing a great and insupportable Burthen of Poor upon the Parishes where the Woollen Manufacturers live.
 4. By the loss of the People themselves, who are a great part of the strength of the Kingdom.
 5. By the decay of the *English* Navigation and Naval Force.
- VI. This must in time put *Ireland* into the condition of *England*, or at least reduce *England* to the condition of *Ireland*, and whether then *Ireland* will be so forward and zealous to preserve and defend *England*, as *England* has been to guard and protect *Ireland*, is too dangerous an Experiment, and it seems better for *England* to keep the Staff in its own hand, whilst it is in its Power, than to give it others, and depend upon their kindness for its own safety.
- VII. After all, *Ireland* has not the reason which it pretends to, to complain for want of means to improve their Land, and excite their Industry; they may and do export Corn, Beef, Pork, Mutton, Hides, Tallow, Leather, Butter, Cheese, Candles and Fish, and all sorts of Provision in great plenty to Forreign Parts, and to the Plantations, and they may have what Encouragement they desire for the promotion of the Linnen Manufacture, for which their Soyl is very proper, or any other Manufacture except Woollen, and they are well seated for the Fishery, which in time they may make more profitable to them. And it is Forreigners chiefly who would reap the Benefit of the Woollen Manufacture there, who send their Stocks to be employed therein, and the profit is returned to them in their own Country. — And on the other hand, all Parts of *England*, where any Sheep or Wool is, will be greatly affected by the loss of our Woollen Manufacture, and by consequence the whole Land and Trade of every part of *England*: All which is confirmed by Sir W. Temple, in his Essay on the Trade of *Ireland*, who says, p. 113. That the Improvement of Woollen Manufactures in *Ireland* would give so great a damp to the Trade of *England*, (of which Cloths, Stuffs and Stockings make so mighty a part) that it seems not fit to be Encouraged farther than to serve the Expence of that Kingdom.

REASONS

FOR

Prohibiting the Exportation
of Woollen Manufactures
from *Ireland* to Forreign
Parts.